

ANNUAL REPORT ⁶

OF THE SELECTMEN

— AND —

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF WALPOLE, N. H.,

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT OF TOWN LIBRARY

— FOR THE —

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY**

WALPOLE, N. H.:

CHARLES C. DAVIS, PRINTER.

1878.

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THE

LIBRARY

OF THE

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OF

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OF

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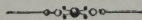
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REPORTING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TOWN OF WATFORD, N.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1887

REPORT OF TOWN LIBRARY

WATFORD, N.H.

Report of the Selectmen.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN.

Real Estate in town,	\$894,900 00
“ “ exempted,	9,250 00
“ “ taxed,	<u>\$885,650 00</u>
481 Polls,	48,100 00
494 Horses,	36,365 00
1107 Cattle,	36,960 00
8551 Sheep,	27,302 00
Stock in banks,	36,700 00
“ “ trade,	11,750 00
Money on hand,	52,650 00
Mills,	3,100 00
Toll Bridge & Carriages,	11,255 00
	<u>\$1,149,832 00</u>

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$2,820 00
County tax,	2,269 07
Town tax,	8660 21
School Dist. No. 1 tax,	750 00
Village Fire Precinct,	150 00
Highway tax paid in labor,	1,500 00

EXPENDITURES.

TOWN OFFICERS.

William Brown, Supt. School Committee	\$115.00
A. P. Richardson, Town Clerk,	50 00
Henry Burt,	150 00
Dares A. DeWolf, } Selectmen,	145 00
Henry C. Rawson, }	132 50
B. F. Aldrich, Treasurer,	25 00
C. R. Crowell, Moderator,	5 00
C. B. Lucke, Collector 1877,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$722 50

SUPPORT OF TOWN PAUPERS.

L. D. Pressy, hay for P. Murray, 1876,	\$ 7 16
C. C. Davis, goods for Mrs. Murray, 1876,	1 10
G. H. & E. M. Holden, meat for Mrs. Murray, '76,	1 42
C. C. Davis, use of splints by Dunsmore girl,	1 50
D. Lockwood, goods to Mrs. Stark,	56 59
John Collins, keeping Mrs. Stark's cow,	7 50
James Keefe, funeral expenses of Wm. Stark,	10 00
H. C. Rawson, paid for medical attendance and funeral expenses of Ellen Stark,	37 00
E. K. Seabury, goods to W. Hinds,	9 00
G. H. & E. M. Holden, Meat to W. Hinds,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$134 27

TOWN LIBRARY.

R. L. Ball, care and room rent,	\$60 00
G. A. Blake, books,	100 00
C. C. Davis, sundries since 1873,	7 13
	<hr/>
	\$167 13

TRAMPS.

P. Murray,	\$136 80	
E. Bixby,	61 30	
M. A. Davis,	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$200 10
Rec'd and now due from County in cases		
where affidavits were taken,	67 50	
Expense paid by the Town,	<hr/>	\$132 60

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Amount paid during the year, including		
tramps, when affidavits were taken	\$136 89	
Amount due from County March 1, '77,	27 25	
	<hr/>	\$164 14
Amount rec'd from County Oct. 1877,		
paid to Treasurer		75 25
		<hr/>
		\$88 89
Bills not allowed by Com's in E. Messiah's case,	7 50	
	<hr/>	
Bills paid since Oct. 1877, now due from County,	\$81 39	

TOWN HOUSE.

C. C. Davis, glass and putty,	\$ 30	
H. W. Brown, setting glass,	70	
E. K. Seabury, kerosene and chimnies,	2 52	
M. J. Hall, labor and lumber,	6 40	
B. P. Owen, chimnies,	1 31	
W. P. Moriarty, wood,	5 00	
Alvin Wright, wood,	2 25	
	<hr/>	\$18 48
Rec'd rent of Town Hall, (paid to Treasurer)	\$6 00	

BLANK BOOKS, STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

G. H. Tilden, books,	\$17 30
A. P. Richardson, stamps and stationery,	2 00
C. C. Davis, stationery,	1 90
" " " blanks, certificates, &c.,	7 50
" " " town reports, 1877,	43 75
" " " catalogue Town Library,	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$147 45

WALPOLE AND WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

W. A. Maynard, snowing,	\$14 50
P. Murray, labor and spikes,	11 44
E. K. Seabury, oil, rope and pulley,	3 06
B. P. Oweh, oil can,	65
G. G. Banks, timber and plank,	4 31
	<hr/>
	\$33 96
Rec'd of Westminster, (paid to Treasurer)	\$11 32

SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS, 1876.

L. D. Pressy,	\$9 00
Hooper & Pierce,	3 00
Geo. Watkins,	12 00
W. H. Scoville's Estate,	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$39 00

SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS, 1877.

Orders drawn but not paid.

Alfred Watkins,	\$3 00
Fred. Watkins,	10 00
Rufus Leonard,	6 00
J. H. Moriarty,	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$23 00

BREAKING ROADS.

L. P. Pratt,	\$3 75
J. K. Thayer,	14 20
L. D. Pressy,	2 75
H. C. Towne,	14 85
H. G. Wightman,	17 92
Elisha Dunham,	2 28
H. W. Fisher,	3 64
G. H. Gassett,	15 15
John Redding,	7 00
Edwin Guild,	4 82
W. W. Guild,	2 39
W. T. Ramsay,	9 86
Joseph Kidder,	7 20
W. B. Mason,	14 00
Alfred Watkins,	28 65
Harding Ball,	9 75
I. M. Graves,	15 00
Wm. Arnold,	23 10
L. L. Watkins,	4 20
Eli W. Graves,	8 54
E. E. Webster,	9 75
W. E. Roy,	75
C. H. Graves,	3 05
W. A. Maynard,	15 75
G. W. Kingsbury,	11 75
Alonzo Jennings,	4 90
J. H. Hinds	1 34
Oliver Hall,	5 70
<hr/>	
\$252 04.	

BUILDING AND REPAIRING BRIDGES.

Moses Elliott, hauling plank & lumber,	\$21 00
“ “ plank & hauling from Marlow,	37 25
Lewis Dickey, plank,	40 59
J. D. Holmes, “	37 69
<hr/>	
Amount carried over,	\$98 84.

	Amount brought up	\$ 98 84
G. G. Banks, plank,		35 24
Henry Burt, “		4 03
J. Kirkpatrick, timber,		18 72
Thomas Bellows, “		15 89
Robert Elwell, “		19 28
H. H. & J. C. Fletcher, timber,		16 60
H. P. Hall, timber,		5 00
W. G. Buffum, “ and stone,		68 42
F. B. Knapp, “ “ “		5 00
F. S. Wilber, “ “ labor,		56 60
I. F. Kendall, “ “ “		25 00
James Stewart, “ “ “		13 70
W. N. Stevens, “ “ “		7 25
J. W. Taggard, “ “ “		2 20
Henry Podwin, sawing timber,		3 00
W. A. & C. B. Bond, spikes and nails,		3 47
E. K. Seabury, powder and nails,		2 75
C. A. Witt, labor,		29 50
R. A. Howard, “		24 16
S. Slade, “		9 00
J. Fisher, “		6 91
D. A. Morian, “		6 45
Cyrus Church, “		4 92
H. S. Allen, “		1 50
		<hr/>
		\$ 521 12

HIGHWAYS AND RAILINGS.

Charles Fisher, one road machine,	\$ 40 00
J. H. Williams, gravel for road in district 14,	15 00
Tucker Bridge Co., toll for carting gravel,	12 00
Moses Elliott, for carting gravel,	56 00
J. H. Putney, “ “ “	34 90
	<hr/>
Amount carried up	\$157 90

Amount brought up,	\$157 90
W. F. Hayward, surveying for new road,	4 00
H. C. Rawson, making new road in dist. No. 2,	48 85
D. W. C. Ordway, repairing road machine,	5 00
E. W. Barker, " " " 1876,	1 50
H. W. Brown, guide boards,	6 00
J. Fisher, " "	3 00
P. P. Reed, " "	5 00
Daniel Ross, " "	30
Moses Elliott,	17 37
W. E. Roy,	1 35
J. H. Moriarty,	3 00
James Nash,	28 13
J. G. Bellows,	5 00
J. O'Conner,	4 00
I. P. Pratt,	8 00
James Stewart,	13 84
F. B. Knapp,	7 00
F. M. Joslin,	5 00
P. Murray,	2 37
W. G. Buffum,	20 00
B. H. Dwinnell,	4 62
B. B. Royce,	2 75
O. W. Rogers,	2 65
B. E. Webster,	10 00
J. W. Batchelor,	7 35
A. A. Beckwith,	9 58
Henry Burt,	7 09
Charles Gates,	32 00
Alonzo Jennings,	2 00
C. W. Tole,	16 25
Matt. Tole,	6 30
R. S. Blanchard,	30 86
I. M. Graves,	15 00
J. H. Putney,	15 10
	<hr/>
	\$ 508 16

MISCELLANEOUS.

G. A. Blake, reporting births and deaths,	\$ 3 75
A. P. Richardson, " " " "	4 50
M. J. Britton, watering trough,	3 00
J. W. Taggard, " " "	2 00
Matt. Tole, " " "	3 00
J. D. Hinds, tolling bell,	50
S. A. Hardy, taking affidavit,	50
Chas. Towns, insufficiency of highway, 1876,	4 25
C. B. Lucke, Col., abatement of taxes, 1876,	34 83
Support of schools,	3,000 00
District No. 1, schools,	750 00
Henry Burt, teams and cash paid out,	32 65
D. A. DeWolf, " " " " "	30 00
H. C. Rawson, " " " " "	30 85
Bounties paid on foxes and hawks by selectmen,	8 40
Charles Gates, mowing and raking cemetery,	25 00
E. W. Barker, village fire precinct,	150 00
E. W. Barker, police duty, 1876,	11 00
T. B. Buffum, Treas., Town bonds paid,	2,800 00
T. B. Buffum, Treas., interest town debt,	927 00
Abatement of taxes, 1877,	31 20
	<hr/>
	7,852 43

RECAPITULATION.

Town officers,	\$ 722 50
Town paupers,	134 27
Tramps,	132 60
County paupers,	136 89
Town library,	167 13
Town house,	18 48
Blank books, stationery, and printing,	147 45
Walpole and Westminster bridge,	33 96
Sheep killed by dogs, 1876,	39 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried up,	\$1,532 28

Amount brought up,	\$1,532 28
Breaking roads,	252 04
Building and repairing bridges,	521 12
Highways and railings,	508 16
Miscellaneous,	7,852 43
	<hr/>
	\$10,666 03

TOWN DEBT.

Bonds due,	\$12,200 00	
Interest due on bonds,	120 00	
Town officers, and other unpaid bills estimated,	900 00	
	<hr/>	\$13,220 00

ASSETS.

Taxes of 1877, uncollected,	\$3,059 96	
State bonds on hand,	3,000 000	
Interest due on same,	30 00	
Cash on hand,	637 56	
Due from county, on paupers,	81 39	
Due from State, bounties paid,	8 40	
Due for hay and leaves from cemetery,	10 00	
	<hr/>	6,827 31
Present indebtedness of the town,		<hr/> 6,392 69

ESTIMATES FOR 1878.

Paupers, all classes,	\$450 00	
Highways and bridges,	1,100 00	
Town officers and contingent expenses,	1,400 00	
Support of schools,	2,800 00	
State tax,	2,820 00	
County tax,	2,269 00	
Bonds due in 1878,	3,200 00	
Interest on debt,	720 00	
Library,	160 00	
		<hr/> \$14,919 00
Less		
Savings Bank and railroad tax, and literary fund, from State, estimated,		\$1,469 00
		<hr/> \$13,445 00

All of which is respectfully submitted by

Henry Burt,	} Selectmen
Dares A. DeWolf,	
Henry C. Rawson,	
	of
	Walpole

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER.

For the year ending February 28, 1878.

 RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand, March 1, 1877,	\$ 679 14
Rec'd C. B. Lucke, taxes for 1876,	2332 61
“ “ “ interest on same,	54 96
“ “ “ taxes for 1877,	11765 27
“ “ “ interest on same,	22 95
“ County for paupers,	75 25
“ State for coupons,	180 00
“ “ “ rail road tax,	416 55
“ “ “ savings bank tax,	910 32
“ “ “ literary fund,	170 28
“ Town of Westminster for bridge account,	11 32
“ Patrick Murray	10 00
“ for use of town hall,	9 04
	<hr/>
	\$16,637 69

 DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid town orders for 1876,	\$ 245 03
“ “ “ “ 1877,	10,666 03
“ County tax,	2269 07
“ State tax,	2820 00
Cash on hand March 1, 1878,	637 56
	<hr/>
	\$16 637 69

T. B. BUFFUM, Treasurer.

The undersigned committee, appointed to settle with the Selectmen and Treasurer, have examined their accounts and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

George Aldrich,	} Auditors.
S. H. Porter,	
Edwin K. Seabury.	

Report of SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The undersigned Committee, to whom were entrusted the care and management of the schools in this town for the year ending March 1st, 1878, in compliance with law, begs leave to present the following special, general, and tabular reports of the condition and progress of the schools in town the past year.

In so doing, we have endeavored to give the full measure of credit where it was due, and have not withheld criticisms where they seemed just. The amount of money raised by the town was \$3,000, and appropriated in the following manner, viz. : \$75 were appropriated, in the first place, to each school, and the remainder was divided *per capita*, each scholar receiving \$3.75.

Following is the number of scholars, returned by the Selectmen, in each district, together with the amount of money each district received.

Districts.	No. of Scholars	Names of Prudential Committees.	Amounts.
1	154	S. H. Porter,	\$ 803 70
2	101	Jas. Hennesy,	454 53
3	18	L. J. Whitney,	142 65
4	32	E. E. Pressey,	196 28
5	16	S. Slade,	136 12
6	10	Andrew Roy,	112 57
7	11	Daniel Pratt,	116 33
8	4	Daniel Merriam,	90 03
9	24	Geo. W. Murdough,	165 18
10	20	S. J. Tiffany,	183 98
11	18	C. B. Wilbur,	142 65
12	31	Chas. A. Witt,	191 50
13	13	Chas. A. Watkins,	123 86
14	18	Rufus Leonard,	142 65

SPECIAL REPORTS.

DISTRICT No. 2. The number of scholars is the largest in this district of any in town except No. 1,—numbering over one hundred. They are mostly of Celtic origin, and their language partakes strongly of the Celtic accent; but they are bright and active, and manifest a strong desire to learn. There are some insurmountable obstacles in the way of their progress, under the present condition of affairs. First, the school-house is not half large enough for the accommodation of the pupils. They are crowded together like sheep in a market car. Secondly, a good system of classification can not be obtained so long as parents refuse to purchase the school books used in the town. Thirdly, no good results can be obtained so long as parents are indifferent about the punctuality of their children, the register showing an average of not more than 74 per cent. of attendance.

This district receives more than one seventh of all the public school money appropriated in town. With a good school house, good teachers, and a cheerful acquiescence in proper classification, this school might easily take rank among the first in town. We hope parents, for the good of their children, will ere long make some move towards the building of a new school house.

Mr. Ethan Allen Crosby, who taught satisfactorily last year, was employed again this year. We visited the school several times during the year, and found passable order, and the pupils making fair progress under the circumstances.

No teacher can feel satisfied with his work in this school, if the greatest good is his aim. The children are closely crowded, and mischief, being contagious at all times, would most likely be more so under such conditions.

No set rules can be laid down for their government. The treatment must be "expectant" as physicians say in the treatment of certain diseases. The teacher has to watch and wait; not long, however, for something is turning up continually, not because the scholars are vicious, but because they are uneasy. They do not mass their forces for determined mischief, but keep up a guerilla warfare on flank and outposts. The teacher in this school is never at ease during school hours. Mr. Crosby has done well to hold this school in abeyance two long years; but we think a tighter rein would harm no one.

Our last visit was February 13th, when a prolonged and comparatively critical examination was made. The school was found to have made fair progress during the year. Reading, spelling, and arithmetic received the most attention. Other branches were taught. The reading and spelling were not below the average in town, outside of No. 1. The low tone of voice, however, militated against the pleasure of listening. A disagreeable murmur pervaded the school room most of the time we were present, the origin of which it was difficult to ascertain. The teacher informed us that he had made repeated efforts to suppress it. It might be an open question whether some other person might not have succeeded. All considered, we think Mr. Crosby did well, and if he should teach the school hereafter, it is hoped he will put an end to those noises if he does n't do anything else. The tables will show the irregular attendance.

No. 3. Peace and quiet have reigned in this school for some years. The pupils are generally teachable, and the parents forbearing. No insubordination has been reported. The pupils are not forward in their studies, but manifest a disposition to learn; consequently, the school is not a hard one to govern and teach.

Miss Flora L. Guild taught the summer school. Near the close of the term, we found the scholars had made fair improvement in their studies, and there appeared to be harmony between teacher and pupil.

Perhaps, in a larger school, a little more punctilious discipline might not be out of the way. As far as our own information extends, and from observation obtained from other sources, we think Miss Guild's efforts were appreciated. No tardy marks.

The winter school was taught by Miss V. D. Mack, of Gilsum. Miss Mack is a graduate of the State Normal School; therefore, it is presumed she is well qualified. We visited the school near the commencement, and again January 25th, when the school had been keeping ten weeks. The school had increased several pupils from the commencement. More than half of the pupils were over eleven. We spent the afternoon in the school, carefully noting all the proceedings.

Our conclusion was, that Miss Mack will have to learn two things before she becomes a successful teacher. One is, to keep better order; and the other is, to let the scholars do the thinking, instead of doing it herself. Scholars will not be much benefited to be told every thing, but they will be greatly benefited by telling the teacher what and how much *they* know. Miss Mack labored too much for her pupils. She deserves credit for a conscientious effort to advance the interest of her pupils, and if she had left it to the pupils to do their share of the work, her untiring efforts would have been crowned with success. We think, if she heeds our criticisms hereafter, she will make a successful teacher. The most remarkable feature found in the register was, that every pupil's deportment was marked *plus*.

No. 4. The school in this district for many years held the position of one of the best in town, but, within a few years it has deteriorated, and now holds a position not much above an average. The causes which have contributed to this result may be many or few; but, nevertheless, the fact must be obvious to a casual observer.

Miss Lizzie Joslin, of this town, commenced the summer term, and continued in the school about three weeks, when her health failed, and she was obliged to relinquish her care to Miss Mary E. Rust, also of this town, a teacher well qualified by experience and attainments. She worked with commendable zeal and well-directed efforts to the close of the term. At the examination, the school appeared orderly in behavior, and a fair degree of progress was made. The habit of speaking in an undertone, and a certain indefinable listlessness manifested by the pupils, had a tendency to impair the examination.

We regard Miss Rust as one of our best qualified, and most conscientious and indefatigable common-school teachers.

The winter term was under the care of Mr. Elgin A. Jones, of Marlow, a graduate of the Scientific Department at Dartmouth. We regard Mr. Jones's qualifications as being admirably adapted to the school room.

Mr. Jones, although a beginner, took hold of the business like a veteran. The school was well taught and made good improvement. Good order obtained, and was secured without any apparent effort. The scholars and parents, we think, remember him with gratitude. Taking it all together, it may be regarded as the "banner" winter school as far as teaching is concerned. We hope prosperity may reward his faithfulness.

Mr. Jones kept a record of attendance, good behavior, and scholarship combined, the highest mark being 100. Fred. R. Ramsey, Sarah E. Ramsey, Bertha F. Ramsey, and Willie E. Severance were marked 90. Arthur Guild was marked 85, Maria Fuller, Hattie L. Graves, and Amy W. Jennings, 80. The rest were 75 and less. Alice and Amy Jennings were present every day, but each had a tardy mark.

No. 5. Last summer, Jennie F. Ball for the first time changed her *status* from pupil to teacher. Miss Ball is a resident of this town. Being a good scholar,

of a cheerful disposition, and having a happy faculty of imparting knowledge, she brought about results at the close of the term which were commendable to herself, gratifying to the parents, and satisfactory to the Committee. The school room was tastefully decorated, the pupils cheerful and happy, and also ready and willing to do their best. The attendance was also good. On the whole, we were well pleased with the examination. If Miss Ball pursues the calling of teacher, and profits by experience, she will ere long take an enviable rank as teacher.

The winter school closed February 15th, which had been under the care of Mr. J. Wm. Prentiss, of this town, also a beginner. Although this was Mr. Prentiss's first attempt at teaching, we think he did well. For him it was untried ground, but we think he advanced the welfare of the pupils as much as the average veteran teacher would have done.

The school was under good discipline at our last visit, and, we confidently believe, has made more progress than has been made in that school for several winters past. Good progress was made in all the studies pursued. Grammar and reading seemed to have received special attention. The scholars seemed to wear the same air of cheerfulness they did at the close of the summer school. If the teacher had any failings, "they leaned to virtue's side," and in future will be corrected as he sees his way more clearly.

No. 6. The school year in this district was twenty-two weeks; ten in summer and twelve in autumn, both terms being taught by Miss Ada M. Fisher, who has taught several terms in this district and in town previously. Miss Fisher is a native of this town, and resides in the district.

In summer, she had only five bright pupils, all of whom were obedient and made commendable improvement in all the branches taught them. The fall school was larger, thirteen in number, made up from the surrounding dis-

tricts. Fine progress was also made this term. A small class in the elements of drawing merits commendation, taking the age of the pupils into consideration. Miss Fisher is very exact in her teaching, and faithful in all she does. No one branch of study received more attention than the others. All seemed to have received a due share of attention. The appearance of the school near the close was a sufficient warrant that the teacher had been faithful, and the scholars obedient and industrious.

No. 7. This school of twenty-one weeks in length, nine in summer, and twelve in autumn, was taught by Miss Alice M. Smith, of this town. The school is small, and the scholars mostly young and backward. Three families furnish all the scholars belonging to the district. This district seems to be a favorite place for young ladies of this town to make their *debut* as teachers. Miss Smith followed the rule of beginners, and commenced her first term there, and was very acceptable to all at the beginning of the summer term; but a cloud arose before she had completed the term, and loomed up ominously—no fault of the teacher, however. At the beginning of the second term, that cloud had materially enlarged, and threatened a storm; but a wholesome fear of the enforcement of the statute of the State dispelled the fear of any further trouble. Miss Smith was sorely perplexed by the conduct of some of the parents, which would have dispirited a less resolute person. But, notwithstanding, her efforts to advance the condition of her pupils and her patience under the circumstances merit the approbation of the Committee.

Parents, who will deliberately foul the pool which gives their children drink, deserve the most unqualified censure from all respectable communities. Miss Smith did well in her school, and would have done much better under more favorable circumstances.

No. 8. The scholars in this district have been decreasing from year to year, till, last spring, the number was reduced to only four.

Miss Janie C. Watkins, of this town, was employed to teach the summer school. The school was made up from two pupils belonging to the district, some from Surry, some from Westmoreland, and others from District No. 13,—making eleven in all. Some of the children were without books, while others had books dissimilar to those used in town; consequently, the teacher's efforts were in a measure paralyzed. However, the progress made by the pupils was commendable under the circumstances.

The fall term was taught by Miss Jennie F. Ball, who taught the summer school in District No. 5. This school was similar in its composition to the school in summer, and the comparative advancement of the pupils about the same. We think both the teachers were faithful, and did the best they were capable of doing, all things considered. The classes in each term were about equal to the whole number of pupils multiplied by three.

No. 9. Miss Jennie B. Murdough was employed to teach the summer term in this district. Her attainments were sufficient to instruct any pupil in the district who would be likely to attend a summer school. There were but few pupils in the school, all counted. For some reason, not known to the Committee, there were only three or four pupils who attended the school, which had a tendency to dispirit the teacher; but she continued in the school to the end of the term. There were so few pupils that any interest in study was at zero; no more so, however, than in most schools where the number of pupils is so few. We think this was the banner school for order; for her pupils were seated, one in the middle, and the other two in corners opposite on one side of the school room. No communication could be had except by the use of a telephone, which was not

there. Miss Murdough did her best under the circumstances. The indifferent treatment she received from the district should excite sympathy from all lovers of fair dealing.

The winter school was taught by Miss L. Jennie Cochran, who taught in No. 10 in the summer. Miss Cochran was unfortunate in this school. At the commencement, she had twelve pupils—at the close, but three. The school went on smoothly till the eleventh week, when one of the parents, with his boy, a lad some fifteen years old, came to us, and complained that the boy had undergone a severe flagellation by the teacher, without cause, as he alleged. We found his shoulder and arm discolored from severe bruises. According to the boy's story, it might be thought the teacher did not possess the "wisdom of the serpent nor the harmlessness of the dove." *Ex parte* evidence is not always reliable; for the teacher's statement and the subsequent statement of pupils who were present, changed the whole aspect of the proceedings, in favor of the teacher. A rehearsal of the whole story would not benefit any one, therefore, the plain facts are these: The boy told the teacher she lied, at the same time using profane and vulgar language, for which he was severely flogged. Had not this event occurred, we presume the school would have been a fair one. It is hoped Miss Cochran will be more successful hereafter. The few pupils remaining at the close were quiet, and seemed to have made fair progress.

No. 10. Miss L. Jennie Cochran, of this town, who taught this school successfully a year ago, was employed again the past summer. We visited the school twice during the session, and found the school in a prosperous condition. The pupils were obedient, and seemed to have been fairly taught. The examination at the close was pretty good, although some of the pupils were somewhat timid. No specialty was observed in Miss Cochran's mode of teaching; the ordinary routine was pursued. No complaints from any source came to use and we conclude the teacher gave satisfaction to the dis-

trict. At recess, we noticed the boys took larger strides for the door than they did fifty years ago in school. Sheep have been seen leaving a yard in the same manner, but boys' leaving a school room in such haste is an exception to the rule. Such impropriety is open to criticism.

The winter school of twelve weeks was taught by Mr. Frank E. Benjamin, of Ainstead, whose acquirements are much above the average common-school teacher. He labored hard and faithfully, and success crowned his efforts. It is some twenty years since we first visited that school in an official capacity, and never but once was there as good an examination.

The pupils gave evidence of having been well drilled in reading, spelling, grammar, and arithmetic. Geography was not much studied. The two higher classes in arithmetic were put to pretty severe work at the black-board, and they all acquitted themselves creditably, although the examples given were our own, the principles of which they had passed over in their studies. Mr. Benjamin did not receive fully the cordial support to which he was entitled. We think if parents had been present at the examination, they would have been highly gratified.

This school stands the first in town, out of the village, in scholarship.

The teacher kept a record of attendance, and perfect recitation. The following are the names of those scholars who had perfect recitations every day: Emma J. Hall, Addie R. Hall, Adine P. Foster, Velma E. Foster, Emma A. Houghton, Willis C. Foster, John H. Taggard, Algion E. Houghton and Alfred M. Foster. There were others whose standing reached ninety per cent. and more. They were Lucy C. Hall, Florence J. Foster, Chas. E. Seward, Hiram M. Foster, and Geo. L. Houghton. All others were less than ninety per cent.

No. 11. This is a small school, and the majority of the scholars backward in their studies. For some reason, the right kind of leaven has not been introduced there.

Miss Addie K. Hall, of this town, was employed to teach the summer school. She was a beginner. The transition from a pupil to a teacher is like one going from daylight into a dark cellar. One has to feel his way till his eye becomes adjusted to the new condition. Miss Hall's condition was no exception to the rule. However, she discharged her duties acceptably to the patrons of the school and the Committee. By experience, Miss Hall will feel more at home, and assume the position, better fortified with self-reliance.

The winter school of seventeen weeks was under the care of Miss Lizzie Nims, of Keene. We visited the school twice, once near the beginning, and again about the twelfth week. At our last visit, the school seemed to be making good progress. The order was unexceptional. The quiet of the school room seemed almost painful—none the worse for that, however. The teacher seemed to exert herself to rouse her pupils to energetic effort. There are so few pupils, it is almost a Herculean task to do it. Miss Nims is painstaking and energetic in the school room, and perfect mistress of the situation. The recitations of the pupils were fair. We were perfectly satisfied with the proceedings of the teacher, and feel confident the school was a success so far as any teacher could make it so. We felt that we could trust the teacher the few remaining weeks, and did not visit it at the close. We should like to see Miss Nims in some of our larger schools, where her abilities could be exercised more advantageously.

No. 12. This school is rapidly attaining to the position of one of the best schools in town. There are some hindrances to the full position of a model school. One is the indifference of some of the parents to the true welfare of their children. School books had to be furnished to some of the children during the year. Those children and some others were not constant nor punctual in their attendance.

Miss Georgie E. Randall, of Alstead, performed a good work for this school the past summer and autumn. No teacher for the summer schools worked harder, no teacher accomplished more, and no teacher had better examinations than Miss Randall. The improvement was of the first order in all the branches taught. Miss Randall has the full approbation of the Committee and most if not all the parents in the district.

Miss Alma E. Bragg, of Alstead, taught the winter school of nine weeks. The school closed February 1st. It was our intention to have been there that day, but we were prevented by indisposition, to say nothing of a foot of new snow, and drifts four feet deep staring us in the face, to find our way through. If the school was a good one, the patrons ought to be satisfied; if poor, our presence would not have made it better the closing day. However, for respect due the teacher, we should have been pleased to have seen the school at its close.

No. 13. There was no summer school in this district the current year. There was a fall school taught by Miss Flora L. Guild, who taught in District No. 3. in the summer. This school is small, the scholars of ages ranging from five to seventeen. The attainments of the pupils varied like their ages, from algebra to words of one syllable. No classification could be properly made, therefore, no emulation could obtain with the pupils. The recitations were numerous, but the teacher had plenty of time on her hands to hear them all without inconvenience. A school constituted like this can not make progress like one where the classification is more favorable.

We visited the school twice, the last time a few weeks before it closed, and found it in good working order. The progress made was fair. We have heard no complaints, and infer the school was a fair one under the circumstances.

The winter school closed January 29th. The term was short, only eight weeks and two days duration. We

visited the school the day before its close, and found about the same number of pupils as in the fall school, with a small addition.

Mr. C. A. Kibling, of S. Strafford, Vt., a member of the Sophomore class at Dartmouth College, was in charge. This was Mr. Kibling's first pedagogical experience. We think he labored hard for the good of his pupils, and succeeded as well as most teachers would in so short a time. A general review was had of most of the studies pursued in the school. A majority of the school acquitted themselves passably well, while others were quite indifferent. A marked improvement was noticed in their reading.

We are of opinion the school gave satisfaction to the district. At the next school meeting we would like to have some member of the meeting try the experiment of writing his name on either of the blackboards, and report what success.

No. 14. Miss N. Emma Emerson, of Alstead, who taught this school a year ago, had the charge the past summer. On the day of examination, we found the school with good order prevailing, and a desire on the part of the pupils to acquit themselves with honor, seldom witnessed in a school of this grade. The classes in reading, arithmetic, and physiology interested us very much. The reading by the first class was faultless, although we made the selection. All the recitations were good, considering the ages and opportunities of the pupils. More than ordinary industry by both teacher and pupils must have been exercised to have brought about such profitable results. The school stood equal with any in town at the close of the summer term. Some rumors of indifferent order have come to us since the school closed; but we think the majority of the patrons of the school were well satisfied.

Mr. N. Freeman Horton, of Ludlow, Vt., who taught successfully in District No. 5 the two previous winters, was put in charge of this school the past winter. Mr. Horton having had five winters' experience in teaching,

and being a fair scholar in the branches taught in our common schools, it was thought such qualifications were a sufficient guaranty of success in this school. We have been informed that a feeling of dissatisfaction existed in the district before he commenced the school. We knew nothing about it at the time. The dissatisfaction culminated in insubordination after the commencement of the school. Without a firm resolution and persistent determination to check mischief, the teacher lost all moral if not physical control of his pupils. Parents became dissatisfied, and took their children from school, and a general disquietude prevailed in the district. Mr. Horton, knowing the sentiment prevailing in the district, and feeling that a longer continuance of the school under his care would be unprofitable to the district and unpleasant to himself, at the end of four weeks took himself out of the way. We are unable to form a just opinion in relation to this affair, the statements are so conflicting. However, we think the teacher has the case, about eight to seven.

There was an *interregnum* of only one school day, when Miss Alice M. Eddy, of Bellows Falls, Vt., was installed; a young lady who has had some experience in teaching. She seemed to be mistress of the situation at the onset, and brought order out of chaos, and light out of darkness. The large boys seemed to prefer gynæocratic government to that of one of their own sex. We admire their submissive *gallantry* in this particular case; but when they arrive to manhood, we doubt the compliment's being pertinent. Favorable reports came to us almost daily, and we had dismissed all anxiety about the success of the teacher, when, at the end of the fourth week, the Prudential Committee informed us that a number of the scholars had seceded. The next day we repaired to the school, and spent the entire afternoon there. We found that seven of the eighteen pupils had dissolved their connection with the school. We watched the proceedings of the teacher and the deportment of the pupils with more than ordi-

nary circumspection. Our efforts were futile in finding any cause for the withdrawal of pupils, only that they were impatient of restraint. Our conclusion was, that if Miss Eddy was not entitled to the respect of scholars and the confidence and support of parents, we had no teacher in town who was. She continued in the school five weeks. There were seven of the eleven remaining pupils who were neither absent nor tardy.

GENERAL REMARKS.

TEACHERS. We often hear it said that "Such a person would make a good teacher, but—" or, "Another would do well, if"—There is too much truth in such sayings; but we doubt if Diogenes, with his lantern, in broad daylight, would have been able to find a person who would suit every one in an average school district.

With some, the order is too severe, with others it is too lax. Some talk too much, some too little. Some belong to a certain church, and some to no church; and a hundred and one things that are not just right.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the full success of our common schools, is the want of properly qualified teachers. Not that a fair proportion is not found whose qualifications are sufficient to teach the most that is found in the text-books used; but there is a want of properly digested general information. No normal-school training nor any patent process supplies this deficiency. To say nothing of tact, which is an indispensable requisite for a good teacher, what does the average boy or girl of eighteen know beyond what is found in the text books? They may be able to solve all the problems in common arithmetic, to tell a noun from a verb, and the difference

between a sea and an ocean ; and what of that ? Why ; it is not a *modicum* for a full-fledged teacher's qualifications.

We must not expect many young teachers to be well qualified. The general drift of their minds is not to acquire general, useful knowledge. If they have any taste for reading at all, it is for the sensational literature of the day, which will never make any one a whit wiser or better. However, there are some praiseworthy exceptions to this statement ; and the persons who are the exceptions (all other things being equal) make successful teachers.

There is another class of teachers who are eye-servants ; they *keep* school for a certain number of dollars per month and board. The watch or clock in the school room is their greatest solace ; they hear every tick ; time, for six hours in twenty-four, is a slow coach. They never organize for success ; they have neither aim nor ambition ; they awaken no enthusiasm in their pupils ; they are slipshod in all their undertakings ; still, their other qualifications may be good. The last day of school has peculiar charms for them. This class must be winnowed out, notwithstanding their good qualifications.

In connection, one word about school books. Parents are negligent about furnishing their children with a proper supply of school books. We have furnished some to indigent children ; but there are others, whose parents, though able to furnish, neglect to do so. No man can do a fair day's work without good tools. Neither can a child make good progress in his studies without books. Outside those books which are indispensable, there are others of importance, such as dictionaries and reference books of various kinds. We venture to say, there are not twenty dictionaries in all the schools in town, where should be found a hundred or more. Those parents who are most negligent always have money enough for the circus and the last negro minstrel performance.

Teachers are not the embodiments of perfection, we admit, but they should receive better treatment than they often do at the hands of a set of captious, mischief-making spirits who may be found in almost any school district. Some parents are critical in their observations, which is not a fault if the criticisms are applied for doing good; while others are hypercritical for the sole purpose of making mischief.

Many of the petty annoyances incident to teaching one of our common schools, which drive a teacher almost to frenzy, are known only to the teacher. No one can really sympathize with a teacher but those who have run the gantlet a few summers and winters in our district schools.

In most cases, we should throw the mantle of charity over all little defects in our teachers, remembering at the same time that perfection in poor human nature is seldom found.

SUMMER SCHOOLS. Our summer schools have been fair, on the whole, and some have exceeded our expectations. Many of them were taught by young, inexperienced teachers, but we think all tried to do their best. We have not exacted superior attainments. If we had, we should have had no summer schools in some districts. Some worthy persons that have applied for certificates have been sent away for want of proper qualifications. Those were cases where the applicant had everything to gain and nothing to lose. Persons who will presume on the time and patience of a committee, knowing well their shortcomings, well deserve the mortification of rejection. Persons who have not common sense enough to know their own qualifications, are not fit subjects for teachers.

There was but one case of meddling the past summer, and that was where some parents conceived the foolish idea that their district was the center of the universe, and all else revolved around it; but, as soon as they were disabused of that fallacy, nothing more of a disturbing nature was heard from it.

WINTER SCHOOLS. At the commencement of the winter terms, there were six male teachers and four female, comprising a force of more than ordinary strength of character and ability. All have been comparatively successful but two, viz.; one in Number 14, the other in Number 9. The remaining eight have given us neither trouble nor anxiety. We were surprised when we heard of trouble in No. 14. [See special reports.] Fevers run high when disturbances crop out in district schools. It is there that conservatism and democracy meet and fight to conquer. Conservative men and women say and do strange things. At such times, people will do precisely the same things they will condemn in others if the case reversed. It makes a wide difference who owns the gored ox. This is especially the case where one's sympathy for his own children is paramount. One cannot tell what he will do any better than one can foretell the verdict of a *petit jury*.

Ordinarily, when disturbances break out in schools, it is better to make them known to the proper custodians than for each person in a district to make a law for himself. The pernicious habit many parents have of taking their children out of school when any little disturbance occurs, is more honored in the breach than in the observance.

Public opinion should use its potent influence against such practice so emphatically that no parent would have the temerity to do it. Parents should remember that the tales of children are not always reliable.

READING. We have made a strong effort, the past year, to impress on the minds of the pupils, the necessity of giving more particular attention to the subject of reading, — a subject which we think has been too much neglected, — not because pupils have not been called upon to call over words; but that they have failed to learn to read.

The mere calling of of words is not reading. The only way a pupil can understand the full force of lan-

guage is to learn it from the example of a fine reader and good instructor. Pupils never will learn to read well by studying set rules, — there is so much machinery about the rules that the spirit of language is, in a measure, lost. Our efforts, in some of the schools, have not been without good results; in others where good progress was not made, the pupils were not in fault, but the teachers were. However, we have satisfaction in believing that we have initiated what, in time, will bear fruit.

ARITHMETIC. Most of the pupils in town of a suitable age have been studying arithmetic the past year. Some have manifested a reluctance to the study of mental arithmetic, which we believe is of the greatest importance to the pupil till he attains to the complete mastery of it. Common sense teaches us, and experience proves, that the study of mental arithmetic is of the greatest importance in the everyday transactions of life; and, more, it paves the way to a better mastery of written arithmetic. We hope parents will see that every one of their children has a copy of Colburn's Arithmetic.

GRAMMAR. More pupils have been pursuing this study the past year than usual. Harvey's Grammar was introduced into our schools the past winter, for the reason of its superiority over all others, as we think. It is introduced in a way not burdensome to parents. Hereafter, when new books are purchased, Harvey's Grammar is to be the book purchased. Exchanges for old grammars can be made within the year on very reasonable terms, or new ones purchased. Several pupils have purchased them, and, from what is known, they give perfect satisfaction to teacher and pupil.

GEOGRAPHY. Classes have been taught in all the schools in this important branch of education. In some schools, good results have been obtained by a new method of pursuing the study. The want of general information on the part of teachers is the greatest draw-

back to full success ; but, nevertheless, the plan is a good one, and when a well informed teacher tries his hand at it, success is sure to follow.

OTHER BRANCHES. Penmanship has been taught to all the children over ten years of age. In some cases, good progress has been made. Not much progress can be made in this branch unless the teacher is fully competent, and very few are. Composition and declamation have been urged upon the scholars, but in most schools very little attention has been given to either. Algebra, history, bookkeeping, and philosophy have received some attention in some of the schools. We think, for advanced pupils, the study of physiology and philosophy might be studied with profit.

SCHOOL HOUSES, &c. In districts No. 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12, the buildings are good. In districts No. 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, and 14, by the judicious expenditure of a few dollars, these houses might be made comfortable and inviting. Nos. 2 and 9 speak for themselves.

The school rooms are mostly well supplied with blackboards, only some of them are not black. In some of the rooms, the entire walls would answer, if color were all that is necessary. All the rooms are meagrely supplied with chairs. We feel a little vain that, in one instance, we were able to keep our balance on one of them, which had been transformed into an irregular tripod. But few of the school rooms have mural maps. This matter has been alluded to in former reports quite often, but the maps are not forthcoming.

Something might be done on the outside of the house at little cost, which would not only be convenient to visitors, but would look a little more like civilization. Last summer, for want of a proper horse-hitch we tried the experiment of hitching our horse to a huge boulder. Our efforts were a signal failure. We were driven at last to a neighbor's gate post some distance off, where our horse was unhitched no less than four times during

our visit, to accommodate the owner of the premises, which gave us an anxious degree of uneasiness. In the winter such inconveniences can not be so easily overcome.

CONCLUSION. More than three fourths of all the children that enter our common schools graduate there. Hence the propriety and the necessity of devoting their time to those studies which are the most essential to their actual wants in life. Among those studies the three R's stand most prominent. Other studies may be pursued with profit and advantage to the scholar, if time and inclination will permit; but it is of paramount importance that reading, writing, and arithmetic should be thoroughly taught and fundamentally learned. The young man or young woman who has thoroughly mastered all that is taught and can be learned in our common schools, has a good education.

When a good foundation is laid, we need not fear for the stability of the superstructure. Many a young man aspires to reach the top round of the ladder when the bottom rounds are all rotten—they will not bear his weight. In all such cases the aspirations of life will amount to nothing.

No young man or woman should be deceived in thinking a good education is all that is necessary to make perfect men and women. Virtue, temperance, and integrity are imperative essentials in the make-up of respectable men and women. Let, then, the line of demarcation be sharply drawn between virtue and vice, and always be found on the side of virtue.

The moulding of good character in children belongs to and is the duty of teachers as well as parents: only, in one case it is incidental and in the other constant. Let every teacher and parent remember that idle words are like sped arrows—they never return; that a mistake of to-day may be a mistake of a lifetime.

Let our children also remember that "there is no royal road to learning." The broad highway is open to all in this country, both rich and poor alike. The track is clear for all competitors to run the race for fame, glory, and honor. All that is necessary for attainment is inclination and perseverance.

GEORGE ALDRICH, } Town
Superintending
Committee.

TABLE NO. 1.

SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOL, 1877.

Districts,	2	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks, -	10	10	10	12	8	10	12	9	12	8	10	10	8	8	8	10	10	10
Wages of male teachers per month, -	\$50	50	\$20	28	20	20	20	20	25	16.40	18.40	22	21	19	28	28	23	26
Wages of female teachers per month, -	53	43	12	23	12	4	13	9	11	11	7	4	19	8	16	21	10	15
Number of scholars 4 years old and over, -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Number of tardinesses, -	133	118	0	57	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	4	0	5	6	0
Number not absent, -	0	2	5	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	6	1	8	2	2	2
Number not tardy, -	25	12	10	1	3	4	7	8	11	10	5	1	17	2	16	17	2	0
Number not absent nor tardy, -	5	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	6	0	8	2	2	2
Number of visits by Supt. Com., -	2	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of visits by Prud. Com., -	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of visits by all others, -	0	3	20	21	37	14	24	12	11	8	38	6	28	23	21	14	14	25
Months previously taught, -	8	10	2	40	0	11	13	0	24	5	2	0	13	2	11	13	4	13
Average attendance, -	40	30.41	95	19	11	3.5	10.3	7.4	8.7	8	6.5	3	15	6.75	14.50	16	8	12.5
Average per cent of attendance, -	75	71	80	81	91	90	80	82	79	73	90	75	80	84	90	80	80	80

TABLE NO. 2.

WINTER SCHOOLS, 1877-8

Districts,	2	3	4	5	9	10	11	12	13	14	14
Length of school in weeks,	14	12	12	11	13	12	17	9	8	5	4
Wages of male teacher per month,	40	26	30	32	38	25	28	31	31	32	32
Wages of female teacher per month,	52	22	27	12	13	30	9	15	14	18	18
Number of scholars 4 years old and over,	1	5	6	3	4	8	2	2	3	3	3
Number of scholars over 16,	269	5	112	2	5	18	5	12	15	4	30
Number of tardinesses,	0	4	2	4	2	11	1	2	1	7	0
Number not absent,	9	18	0	10	8	11	7	2	9	14	5
Number not tardy,	0	4	0	4	2	11	7	2	1	6	0
Number of visits by Superintendent Committee,	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	1
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Number of visit by all others,	3	14	40	39	20	43	36	16	10	5	7
Months previously taught,	13	30	0	0	18	9	0	9	0	7	14
Average attendance,	41	19	24	11	9	26	7	86	12	14	15
Average per cent of attendance,	77	90	90	91	70	90	93	73	82	72	72

ROLL OF HONOR.

No. of Scholars neither absent nor tardy.

Dist. *First and Second*

- 2 James Healy.
- 3 { *Edward H. Kidder, *Fred. A. Howe, *Walter B. Wightman, Bennie F. Kidder, Fred. Prentiss, Walter Wetherbee.
- 5 { Ritta Weber, *Walter E. Graves, Edward J. Slade, Nellie M. Graves, Lizzie A. Slade.
- 6 Carrie E. Webster.
- 7 { *Mary E. Pratt, Emma M. Marsh, Nellie A. Marsh; Ella J. Marsh.
- 8 Walter G. Gassett.
- 9 Ritta E. Weber, Lizzie E. Weber.
- 10 { *Hattie M. Tiffany, *Annie R. Foster, *Florence J. Foster, Percy L. Hall, *Adine P. Foster, *Algion E. Houghton, E. Orrin Houghton, Walter C. Mason, George B. Mason, Chas. E. Seward, Clara B. Houghton, Emma A. Houghton.
- 11 Ida M. Graves, Eddie Wilber.
- 12 { Nellie M. Ellis, Beulah Nash, Mary Ober, *Fred. E. Corbin, Herbie Cook, Fred. J. Ellis, Eddie A. Nash, Charlie P. Nash, Herbert A. Knight.
- 13 Caribell T. Ball, Olla B. Comstock.
- 14 M. Rebecca Jennison, Harry E. Brown.

Those marked thus * not absent two terms.

Report of SCHOOL COMMITTEE, FOR DISTRICT No. 1.

With the approach of the annual town meeting, it becomes the duty of your Superintendent to prepare the usual report concerning the condition of the schools under his care. While there have been years of greater prosperity than the one now closing, enough progress has been made in the several departments to furnish ample encouragement for the future. During the spring term all the schools suffered severely from the prevalence of contagious disease, which caused much irregularity of attendance and greatly reduced the average. There were some other difficulties, too, in the Primary and Intermediate departments, which will be noticed in the special reports. But, if we take the year as a whole, it may be said that there has been a fair advance upon the condition which appeared at the date of the last annual report. With these introductory remarks, I ask your attention to the condition of the several schools.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT. There is a prevalent heresy that it does not require as much ability and tact to govern and teach little children successfully, as are called for in the case of older pupils. The truth of the matter is, that a different *kind* of talent is called for in the two cases, but the amount is essentially the same. In the primary school the teacher must possess, in addition to the necessary knowledge, a good degree of firmness, patience, and love for children. The necessity of thorough drill is apparent. A knowledge of human nature is as essential here as elsewhere. A child of ordinary intelligence and capacity will soon learn whether the teacher sympathizes with children, and is capable of looking at the various questions which may arise from the child's stand-point. According as he finds this sympathy and capacity, or the reverse, he will be attracted or repelled.

During the spring term the school was under the care of Miss Helen A. Wilder, of this town. Miss W. was well qualified in the several branches, though wholly without experience in teaching. She came to her work with a manifest love for children, but fell into the error, so common to beginners, of supposing that their good will could be gained by allowing too great liberty. With the best of intentions on her part, there was a lack of firmness, decision, and systematic thoroughness, which are essential to the best results. The whole number of scholars was 59. Average attendance, a fraction over 54 per cent. The lowness of the average is in part accounted for by the prevailing sickness, to which allusion was made in my introductory remarks.

The school was taught for the remainder of the year by Miss Mary L. Aldrich, who has had several years' experience in schools of various grades. She entered upon her work with zeal, diligence, and enthusiasm. There has been no time for many years when the school has shown so plainly the good effects of thorough drill as during the time in which Miss A. has had charge of it. The discipline has also been good, and there has been no ground for complaint respecting loose or disorderly conduct on the part of the pupils. If, in addition to these excellent features of school government, the teacher could cultivate a little closer sympathy with children, and enter more fully into their joys and sorrows—not loosening the reins at all, but holding them in a more lenient spirit, it seems to me that it would leave scarcely anything to be desired in her, as teacher of a school of this grade. The average attendance was good, being 88 per cent in the fall, and 86 in winter.

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT. Intermediate schools are proverbially difficult to govern. Our own is no exception to the general rule. During the spring and fall terms there were a number of boys disposed to be disorderly, who could not be controlled by the teachers, from sheer lack of physical strength. Miss Ella A. Clark, of West Plymouth, N. H., came highly recom-

mended to the Prudential Committee, and entered upon the spring term with zeal and interest. She had taught successfully elsewhere, and there was no reason to expect a different result here, had circumstances favored. But sickness among the pupils and her own ill health combined to prevent the attainment of the best results. She labored faithfully for the good of the school, but, at the end of the eighth week the state of her health rendered it imperative that she should withdraw.

Miss Mary E. Rust was engaged for the second term, and was earnestly devoted to the interests of her scholars. It became necessary for your Superintendent to assist somewhat in subjecting to proper discipline several disorderly boys who entered the school, apparently, with the purpose of making trouble. After a while they were reduced, by the fear of expulsion, to a fair degree of subordination. But the difficulty of the position and the delicate state of her health compelled Miss Rust to decline the offer of the winter school.

The difficulties and discouragements of these two terms induced the Prudential Committee to make a new departure, and to engage a male teacher for the term just now closed. Mr. Charles H. Barnes was secured for the place, who passed an excellent examination, and entered upon the school resolved to have good order if nothing else. The result has proved very satisfactory. The order and discipline have been excellent, and there has been good progress among the pupils in the several branches pursued. Considering that the teacher was wholly without experience, it seems to me that the success of the experiment has been quite remarkable; and it suggests the idea that it may be well to pursue a similar policy in future.

HIGH SCHOOL. The standard of admission to this department is not as high as is desirable, on account of the necessity, which arises every year, of equalizing, as far as practicable, the numbers of the several departments. It often happens that the primary school is very

full when this is very small. So it becomes necessary to promote scholars who are scarcely qualified from the Intermediate Department, to make room for increasing numbers transferred to that school from the Primary. There is no remedy for this evil except to establish another grade, which the number of our scholars would scarcely justify. So it seems necessary to continue on the present plan, unsatisfactory though it be. Mr. Crowell, who has had charge of the High School for many years, appreciates the situation, and seeks to adapt himself to it. His methods of instruction are practical, and adapted to draw out the mind of the pupil and throw him upon his own resources. A great deal of good work has been accomplished in a quiet way during the year. It cannot, of course, be expected that the several classes will reach as high a standard as might be attained if the requirements for admission were higher, for want of the necessary time. Yet, I think it will be found that those scholars who remain in the school for three or four years will show results, in the matter of language and the higher mathematics, which will compare favorably with those of other high schools in our country towns. In the modern languages and the classics it is, of course, impossible to compete successfully with those schools where the standards of admission are higher. But this is compensated, at least in part, by the practical tone which is given to the instruction as far as it goes. Those scholars who have devoted themselves with fidelity to the work in hand while connected with the school have, so far as the facts are known, generally shown the fruits of their training in some important sphere of practical life.

As we cannot have all the benefits which we would like from our High School, on account of circumstances wholly beyond our control, it is the part of the highest public policy to do the best we can. This, it seems to

me, Mr. Crowell has felt disposed to do; and his efforts have been crowned with a good degree of success.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

William Brown,

Supt. Sch.
Com. for
Dist. No. 1.

TABLE NO. 3.
DISTRICT NO. 1, 1877-8.

	SPRING TERM.		FALL TERM.		WINTER TERM.	
	High.	Intermed.	High.	Intermed.	High.	Intermed.
Length of school in weeks,	12	8	12	12	12	12
Wages of male teachers per month,	72		72		72	36
Wages of female teachers per month,	36	36	36	36	36	36
Number of scholars over 4 years old,	31	26	59	41	31	51
Average attendance,	25	18	32	34	27	45
Number of scholars between 4, and 16,	29	26	59	38	31	51
Number of scholars over 16,	2	0	0	3	0	0
Number of tardinesses,	7	19	5	0	22	3
Number not absent,	1	1	3	0	4	10
Number not tardy,	29	17	54	41	19	48
Number neither absent nor tardy,	21	1	3	0	4	8
Number of visits by Superintending Committee,	4	1	4	3	3	2
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	0	0	1	2	2	1
Number of visits by others,	8	4	33	22	13	21
Months previously taught by teacher,	80	31	0	88	42	27
					86	0
					30	

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE FOR 1877.

Your Committee respectfully report that the patronage of our library increases, and the wear and tear of books increases accordingly. The library has been closed a few weeks in order to call in all the books, ascertain how many are missing, and re-arrange them on re-modeled shelves. We find that during the period of ten years about twenty volumes have been lost and can not be accounted for.

During the past year we have purchased some valuable and expensive books, viz.: Atlas of New Hampshire, \$12; Mycenæ &c., 8.40; and Cyprus &c., 5.25. We have endeavored to select such novels and light reading as will not vitiate the morals of our young people.

We are indebted to Mr. Wm. P. Mason for a gift of thirty volumes of Littell's Living Age; and to B. P. Owen for twenty volumes of Harper's Monthly Magazine, which can be bound and placed on the shelves the coming year. If the patrons of our library would handle the books more carefully, considerable expense for repairs could be saved.

Our library is the pride of our town, and should be assiduously protected against harm and generously fostered by our citizens.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1877.

Balance on hand March 1877,	\$ 6 61
Amount appropriated,	100 00
Fines collected,	4 20
	<hr/>
	110 81
Amount expended for books,	\$100 00
Repairing books,	7 48
Paid express,	1 00
“ for paper for covering books,	2 33
	<hr/>
	\$110 81

GEO. A. BLAKE, } Library
 GEO. ALDRICH, } Committee.
 JOSIAH G. BELLOWS, }

To the inhabitants of the Town of Walpole, in the County of Cheshire, qualified to vote in town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall, in said Walpole, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.
- 2d. To choose a Town Clerk for the ensuing year.
- 3d. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councillor, Senator, Railroad Commissioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and County Commissioner.
- 4th. To choose two Representatives to represent the Town in the General Court, to be held at Concord, on the first Wednesday of June next.
- 5th. To choose Selectmen and all other necessary officers for the ensuing year.
- 6th. To raise money for the support of Schools for the ensuing year, and direct the apportionment.
- 7th. To raise money for the repair of Highways, and direct how it shall be expended.
- 8th. To raise money for the support of the Poor, to build Bridges and Highways, to appropriate for Town Library, and for all other current, incidental, and contingent expenses that may accrue.
- 9th. To see if the Town will vote to repair the Town House, and raise money therefor.
- 10th. To act upon any accounts that may be presented against the Town.
- 11th. To see if the Town will vote a certain discount on all taxes paid before the first day of November.
- 12th. To see if the Town will vote to set A. N. Howe and Real Estate from District Number 3 to District Number 1.
- 13th. To hear any reports.
- 14th. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Highway leading from the Brewery to the Drewsville road on the plain.